



**Leiston-cum-Sizevell Urban
District Council.**

1926.

1925.



Annual Reports

— OF —

Medical Officer of Health

— AND —

Sanitary Inspector.

To the Members of the Leiston Urban District Council.



Gentlemen,—

I have the honour to present my report as Medical Officer of Health which according to the requirements of the Ministry of Health follows the lines laid down by the Ministry and should be a general survey of the Sanitary Conditions, etc. of the District for the last five years.

1. The Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

| | | |
|------------------------|------|---------------------|
| Area (acres) | 4994 | |
| Population Census 1921 | 4663 | Estimated 1925 4760 |

Physical Features and General Characteristics of the Area :—

The district is flat. The population of the rural area is sparse. There is considerable common land, scantily wooded. The soil on the eastern side is light with sand and gravel subsoil, more westerly the soil is a medium to heavy loam.

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Number of Inhabited Houses 1921 | Estimated 1150 |
| Number of Families or Separate | |

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------|---------------|
| | Occupiers 1921 | Not Available |
| Rateable Value | Buildings £16304 5s. | Land £2315 |

Assessable Value £16883

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Sum represented by a penny rate | Gross £70 | Net £67 |
|---------------------------------|-----------|---------|

Social Conditions :—The general social conditions of the area have been decidedly below the average owing to most of the wage earners being out of work, due to depression of trade in the local engineering works.

The Chief Occupation of Inhabitants :—(1) Employment at Messrs. Richard Garrett and Sons' Engineering Works. (2) Agriculture.

2. Vital Statistics.

| | | Total | M. | F. |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Births : | Legitimate | 71 | 34 | 37 |
| | Illegitimate | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Birth Rate | 15.5 per 1,000 | England & Wales | 18.3 per 1,000 | |
| Deaths | | 48 | 23 | 25 |
| Death Rate | 10 per 1,000 | England & Wales | 18.3 per 1,000 | |
| No. of women dying in or in consequence of child birth :—None | | | | |
| Deaths of infants under 1 year | | | | |
| | M. | F. | Total | |
| Legitimate | 2 | 0 | 2 | Illegitimate |
| Death rate infants under 1 year per 1000 births registered | | | | .27 |
| Deaths : | Measles (all ages) | | | None |
| | Whooping Cough (all ages) | | | None |
| | Diarrhoea (under 2 years) | | | One |
| | Tuberculosis Respiratory System | | | Eight |
| | Cancer | | | Two |

Amount of Poor Relief :—The number in receipt of medical relief averages about 1.5 per 1,000 population.

Hospital and other forms of Gratuitous Medical Relief :—

The East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital takes the cases from this area but only in exceptional cases gratuitously. Cases are also taken at The Infirmary attached to the Blything Union.

There have been no special causes of Sickness or Invalidity nor any conditions of occupation or environment which have had a prejudicial effect on health.

3. General Provisions of Health Services in the Area.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY LOCAL AUTHORITY OR COUNTY COUNCIL.

1. Tuberculosis, Normanston, Norwich, Ipswich Sanatorium, both provided by the County Council. 2, Maternity, None. 3, Children, None. 4, Fever, Leiston Isolation Hospital, provided by the Local Authority.

Situated about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the centre of the town. Off the main road. Surroundings, agricultural land. Water supply from the Council's mains. Dry earth closets. Accommodation, 2 wards, male and female. Six beds in each. Bathroom. A small unfurnished room. Caretaker's apartments. The caretaker also acts as nurse, but her work would be supplemented by imported help if necessary.

Small Pox. Ipswich. County Council.

Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children. There is none provided in the area but they would be provided for in the Blything Union.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. (a) Infectious Cases. A hired brougham is used, this is subsequently disinfected by the Local Authority. (b) Non-infectious and Accident Cases. Two stretchers are available, i, at Messrs. Richard Garrett and Sons' Works. (ii) At a central position in the town. There is no ambulance available for conveying patients to hospital. Either a car has to be hired or an ambulance procured from Ipswich.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Part time Medical Officer of Health. County Council contributes to salary. Part time Sanitary Inspector who is also Surveyor and Waterworks Engineer. Special diplomas, Cert. R.S.I, M. Inst. M. & Cy.E. County Council contributes to salary.

There are no specialised inspectors, health visitors and special nurses employed in the area.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) GENERAL. Two nurses, supplied by the Leiston and Nursing Association. The Local Authority has nothing to do with these nurses financially or otherwise. They are financed partly by voluntary subscriptions and partly by voluntary contributions and members' subscriptions. The County Council makes a grant for infant welfare work. Some of the Friendly Societies pay fees for attendance on their members. £22 13s. 10d. p.a. interest on a trust fund in connection with money raised for a War Memorial in Leiston. £25 p.a. interest from The Gannon Trust Fund.

(b) Infectious Cases. No provision.

MIDWIVES. Two practice in the area, i.e. the two nurses supplied by the Leiston and District Nursing Association. The Local Authority has nothing to do with these midwives.

CHEMICAL WORK. Analyses are carried out at the County Council's laboratory in Ipswich.

Water Analysis. The last report received in 1925 states that: "The sample of water submitted is free from bacteria."

4. Legislation in Force.

1. Part 3 Public Health Acts Amendments Acts, adopted 1890.
2. The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.
3. Public Health Acts, Amended Act 1907, Part 3, Sec. 39—42 incl., Part X, Sec. 92.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—The Urban Area is supplied from the Local Authority's waterworks, the source of the water is a wide bore shallow well sunk in the craig, the supply is constant and adequate.

The possibility of contamination is remote.

The number of dwelling houses supplied 938, representing a proportion of the population of 3,880.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There are no rivers. Of streams there are the dykes draining what would be marsh land towards the sea coast. These are under the supervision of the Minsmere Level Commissioners and private owners. The main dyke ultimately discharges the effluent from the Local Authority's Sewerage Works into the sea.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Urban Area.—Foul water sewers and partly storm water sewers. The latter were constructed to deal with abnormal conditions of heavy rainfall with entirely satisfactory results.

Sewage Disposal System. The Septic Tank System with subsequent aeration over filtration beds. All arrangements are sufficient with the exception of the sewage disposal works.

Rural Area.—House refuse and excrementa are disposed of on allotments.

Closet Accommodation.—1. Privy. 2. Water Closets. 3. Dry Earth (so called.) No dry earth is used.

Number of each type at end of end of 1925 : (1) In the rural area the system is mainly the pail closet. (2) 705. (3) 450.

Scavenging.—Until recently this was carried out by a contractor on behalf of the Local Authority. This did not

prove a satisfactory method, so now the Local Authority employ their own labour and hire necessary horses and carts from a local farmer.

House Refuse is burnt in an incinerator constructed by the Local Authority, the result is very satisfactory.

There are no fixed receptacles in use in the district.

The number of proper ashbins 850 (approximately).

5. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER. At the inception of the waterworks it was estimated that 804 dwelling-houses were supplied with town water, since which there has been a Housing Scheme inaugurated of 90 houses, and a further number of dwelling houses to the extent of 44 have been connected up to the watermains, thereby making a total of 938 altogether.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. The character of sewerage consists of stoneware pipes, leading to the Sewage Farm, where the sewage is treated by means of Settling Tanks, the effluent therefrom finding its way into the stream beyond and then into the sea. The effluent is considered to be quite satisfactory, after leaving the works, and is of an innocuous nature. There is also part of the area served by a Storm Water system, which materially assists in the sanitation of the district.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. The estimated number of pail closets is 450, with 705 water closets, no new conversions having taken place during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA. These amount to 70, in connection with dwellings, for which the nuisances were intimated by informal notices, and with but few exceptions were remedied without further action on the Council's part. A list appended herewith is shewn under the various headings, as prescribed.

MEAT INSPECTION. All slaughter-houses are regularly visited and the killing of cattle inspected whenever notified of such taking place.

The following tabular statements show the work carried out during the year 1925 :—

TABLE 1.

Number of Inspections and Re-inspections.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-----|
| Housing, Town Planning, &c. Acts. | .. | 70 |
| Nuisances | .. .. | 38 |
| Slaughterhouses | .. .. | 14 |
| Cowsheds and Milkshops | .. .. | 13 |
| Workshops | .. .. | 10 |
| Bakehouses | .. .. | 8 |
| | | — |
| | | 153 |

TABLE 2.

Housing, Town Planning, &c. Acts.

| | | |
|---|----|----|
| Houses rendered fit by Owners | .. | 60 |
| Remedy of defects without service of formal notices by local authority or officers | .. | 22 |

TABLE 3.

Nuisances Found.

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------|----|
| Blocked drains | .. .. | 4 |
| Defective W.C. cisterns | .. .. | 6 |
| „ „ drains | .. .. | 4 |
| Insufficient troughing | .. .. | 3 |
| Defective windows | .. .. | 36 |
| „ wall | .. .. | 1 |
| | | — |
| | | 54 |

Nuisances Abated.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|----|
| Drains unblocked | .. .. | 4 |
| W.C. cisterns remedied | .. .. | 6 |
| Defective drainage remedied | .. .. | 4 |
| „ wall | .. .. | 1 |
| New troughing provided | .. .. | 3 |
| Defective windows remedied | .. .. | 36 |
| | | — |
| | | 54 |

TABLE 4.

Slaughterhouses.

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------|----|
| Number registered | .. .. | 1 |
| „ licensed | .. .. | 6 |
| „ of inspection | .. .. | 14 |
| Limewashing carried out | .. .. | 6 |

TABLE 5.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|
| Cowsheds on Register | .. | .. | 10 |
| Dairies on Register | .. | .. | 2 |
| Number of Inspections | .. | .. | 10 |

TABLE 6.

Factories and Workshops.

| | | |
|---------------------------------|----|----|
| Number of Factories on Register | .. | 6 |
| „ Workshops | .. | 23 |
| „ Inspections | .. | 12 |

SMOKE ABATEMENT. No action taken.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BY-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

1. Slaughter Houses :—

Number Registered 1. Number Licensed 6.

2. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops :—

Cowsheds on Register 10. Dairies on Register 2.

3. Factories and Workshops :—

Number of Factories on Register 6

„ Workshops 23

Other Sanitary Conditions requiring notice. None.

SCHOOLS. The water supply is from the Local Authority.
The closet accommodation is adequate.

Suspected cases of Infectious Diseases are notified to the M.O.H. by the School Authorities.

The Public Health Department of the County Council determines the closure of the whole or part of the schools for infectious diseases.

6. Housing.

1. GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS OF AREA.

1. The general housing conditions are satisfactory.

2. (a) Excess or shortage of houses. At the present time there is no shortage or excess but if the Works should get busy there will then be a shortage. The Council still have land purchased for the erection of houses which has not been used for that purpose.

3. There has been considerable emigration from the district owing to lack of work locally.
2. Overcrowding. There is none.
3. Fitness of Houses :—
 1. (a) General Standard. Quite reasonably good. The urban area has a large proportion of modern built houses.
 - (b) Want of ventilation and absence of surface drainage and damp course.
 - (c) Apathy of owners.
 2. General action taken : By written notices to property owners.
 3. Unfitness in houses inspected are on the whole reasonably carried out on service of notices.

There are no back to back houses.
4. Conditions are satisfactory. The pail closet system is abominable.
5. Unhealthy Areas. There are none.

By-laws relating to (1) Houses, (2) Water, (3) Nuisances.

 1. Houses. There are no building by-laws respecting new houses erected.
 2. Water
 3. Nuisances

{ These by-laws work satisfactory.

There are no by-laws with references to houses let in lodgings or in reference to tents, vans, sheds, etc.

B Necessity for new by-laws or revision of existing by-laws. The adoption of building by-laws should be an advantage otherwise the necessity does not appear to exist.

6. General and Miscellaneous :—

There is nothing to report under this heading.

7. Housing Statistics for the Year 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

- | | |
|--|-------|
| (a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)) | None. |
| (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts : | |
| (1) By the Local Authority | None. |
| (2) By other bodies or persons | None. |

I. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Inspection.

- (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)

| | | |
|-----|---|----|
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925) | 70 |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 8 |
| (4) | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 60 |
| 2. | REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES. Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers | 45 |
| 3. | ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS. | |
| A | Proceedings under section 3 of Housing Act, 1925. | |
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 25 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :— | |
| (a) | By owners | 0 |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of owners | 0 |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close | 0 |
| B | Proceedings under Public Health Acts. | |
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 20 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices | 20 |
| (a) | By owners | 20 |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of owners | 0 |
| C | Proceedings under sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925. | |
| (1) | Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Order | 0 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 0 |

10.

- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit 0
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0
- (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0

There are no facilities available for cleansing and disinfecting verminous persons and their belongings. With the exception of cases of pedicute capitis in schoolchildren, the necessity for these facilities does not arise. Beyond the action taken by the local authority to disinfect premises after cases of infectious diseases there are no means of disinfecting clothing and bedlinen available.

8. Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1925.

| Disease. | Total Cases Notified. | Admitted to Hospital. | Total Deaths. |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Small Pox | None | | |
| Scarlet Fever | 4 | 4 | None |
| Diphtheria | 4 | 2 | None |
| Interic Fever including Para Typhoid | 1 | 1 | None |
| Puerperal Fever | None | | |
| Pneumonia | 14 | None | None |
| Other diseases generally notified | 1 | None | None |
| Other diseases notifiable locally | None | | |

Analysis of Cases.

| | under 1 year | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 35 | 45 | 65 upwd |
|---------------|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|---------|
| Scarlet Fever | | | | | | 4 | | | | | | |
| Diphtheria | | | | 1 | | 2 | | | | 1 | | |
| Paratyphoid | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Pneumonia | | 1 | | | | 4 | | | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| Erysipelas | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | |

II.

TUBERCULOSIS. New cases and Mortality during 1925.

| Age Periods | New Cases. | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|-------------|------------|----|----------------|----|------------|----|----------------|----|
| | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | | | | 1 | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| 35 | | | | | | | | |
| 45 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 55 | | | | | | | | |
| 65 Upwards | 1 | 2 | | 2 | | | | |
| Totals | 2 | 3 | | 3 | | | | |

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.

No action taken under these regulations.

Public Health Act 1925. Sec. 62.

No action taken under this act.

Tuberculosis Schemes.

These do not apply to this district.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

This section does not apply to this district.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

HERBERT M. SYLVESTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Leiston,

April 27th, 1926.

